Archie
ADVENTURE
NO 4
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KNUCKLES
THE ECHIDNA

A mouthful of cookies...

in every bite!

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KNUCKLES™ THE ECHIDNA BOOK FOUR

LOST PARADISE

PART ONE OF THREE

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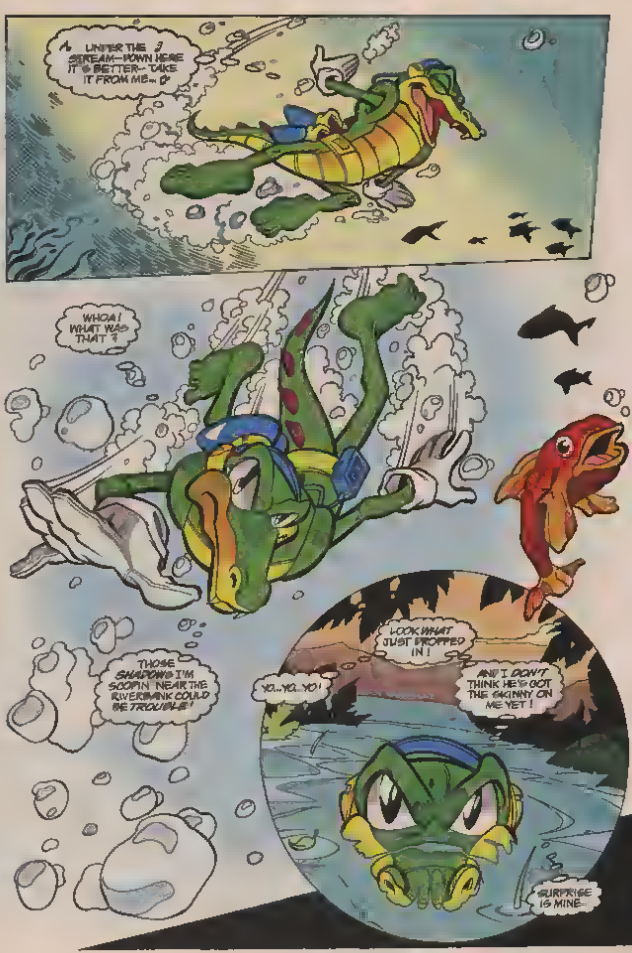
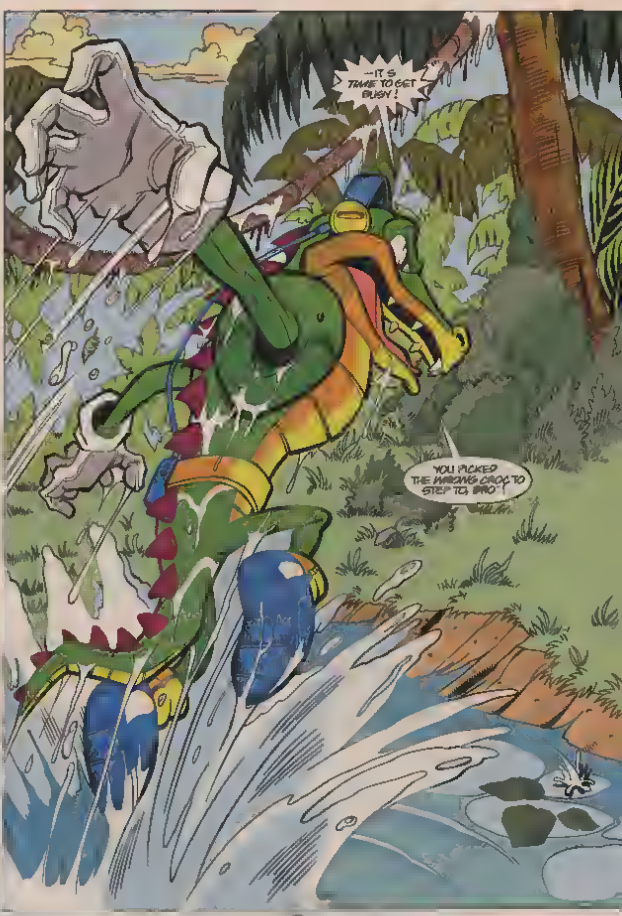
HAVING SURVIVED HIS INITIAL ENCOUNTER WITH THE DARK LEGION, A GROUP OF TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED ECHIDNA RENEGADES, KNUCKLES BEGINS TO TAKE A GREATER INTEREST IN HIS HISTORY, HIS HERITAGE AND ITS ACCOMPANYING RESPONSIBILITIES.

SINCE LEARNING THAT HIS ANCESTORS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR SAVING THE FLOATING ISLAND FROM CERTAIN DISASTER, AND SOME RESPONSIBLE FOR PLACING BOTH IT AND THEIR PEOPLE IN THE GREATEST OF JEOPARDY, KNUCKLES HAS BEGUN TO QUESTION WHAT HE HAS BEEN TAUGHT, AND NOW SEEKS THAT RAREST OF ALL TREASURES... THE TRUTH!

IT'S OUT THERE, SOMEWHERE, WAITING TO BE FOUND IN PLACES ONE WOULD NEVER SUSPECT...


UNDER THE STREAM—HOWN HERE IT'S BETTER—TAKE IT FROM ME...!
WHOA! WHAT WAS THAT?
THOSE SHADOWS I'M SCOPIN' NEAR THE RIVERBANK COULD BE TROUBLE!
LOOK WHAT JUST DROPPED IN!
YO...YO...YO!
AND I DON'T THINK HE'S GOT THE SKINNY ON ME YET!
SURPRISE IS MINE.


—IT'S TIME TO GET BUSY!
YOU PICKED THE WRONG CROC TO STEP TO BRO!

YOU'VE GOT THAT BACKWARDS YOU CRETINOUS CROC!
IT'S YOU WHO HASN'T A CLUE--
THE PHANTOM CITY

—OR WHOAH YOU'RE DEALING WITH!
NICE MOVE!
WHOOOSH
BUT I'M JUST GETTIN' MY GROOVE ON!
WRONG!
K-THUNK!
I'M THROUGH WITH THE SQUARE DANCING!
WHIIIIP!
I'VE GOT OTHER ECHIDNA'S TO FRY!
NEXT TIME LEAD WITH YOUR LEFT—
CHUMP!

SO WE WERE HIKING TO THIS REALLY COOL CAMPSITE FOR A BOWL OF CAP'N CRUNCH!!
CAP'N CRUNCH
WHEN WE CAME TO THIS WEIRD LOOKING BRIDGE!
THEN THE CAP'N DROPPED IN AND YELLED "JUST THINK OF WHAT YOU WANT AND GO FOR IT!"
GOT'A HAVE THAT CRUNCH!
YUM!
ALL MINE!
THE THOUGHT OF THAT SWEET DELICIOUS CRUNCH GOT US RIGHT OVER THAT BRIDGE!
THAT'S HOW WE GOT TO OUR AWESOME CAMPSITE AND OUR HUGE BOWLS OF CAP'N CRUNCH CEREAL!
YOU AND THE CAP'N MAKE IT HAPPEN!
CRUNCH!
CAP'N CRUNCH

OF VERY FAR AWAY, WE FIND EVERYONE'S FAVORITE ECHIDNA IN PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE AND ENLIGHTENMENT...

AWWW-HMMMMMMM...

AWWW-HMMMMMMM...

AWWW-HMMMMMMM...

AWWW-HMMMMMMM...

I WISH YOU TOOK YOUR MEDITATION TRAINING MORE SERIOUSLY, KNUCKLES!

IT'S A LOAD OF MYSTIC MUMBO-JUMBO THAT HASN'T ANY BENEFITS I CAN SEE!

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT IS NOT SOMETHING THAT OCCURS WHEN—

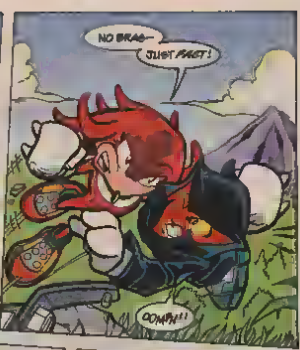
HOWD!

ARGH, WHAT'S GOING ON?

ENEMY APPROACHING DIRECTLY FROM BEHIND! WHEN I GIVE THE WORD—

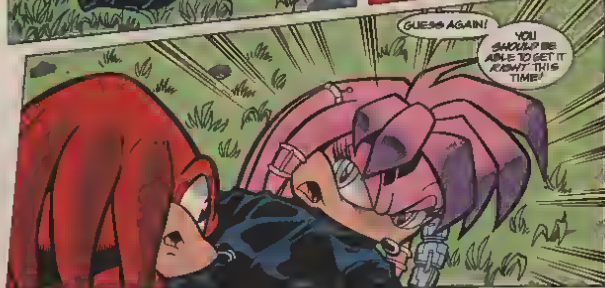
SPUNK!
WHAMMY
OOMPH!!
I WAS WONDERING WHEN YOU GUYS WERE GOING TO CRAWL OUT OF THE WOODWORK!
SPEAK FOR YOURSELF!
YOU'RE ALL SO TYPICAL!
YOU THINK YOU'RE SUCH HOT STUFF!
WELL, LET ME TELL YOU--
WHAM!
YOU GOT THAT BACKWARDS!
WHAM!
NOBODY ATTACKS ME ON MY TURF AND GETS AWAY WITH IT!
YOU'RE GOING DOWN, PUNK!
YOU THINK YOU'RE ECHIDNA ENOUGH TO DO IT?

MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR YOU!
IN YOUR DREAMS!


NO BRAG—
JUST FACT!
OOMPH!!

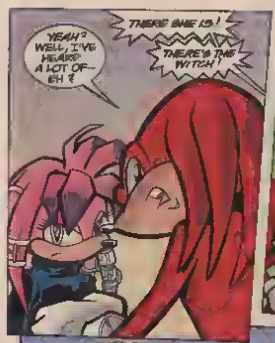
YOU'VE GOT SOME EXPLAINING TO DO—

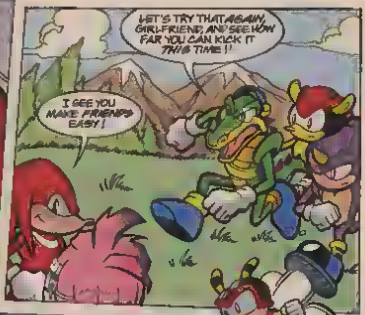
—BOY!

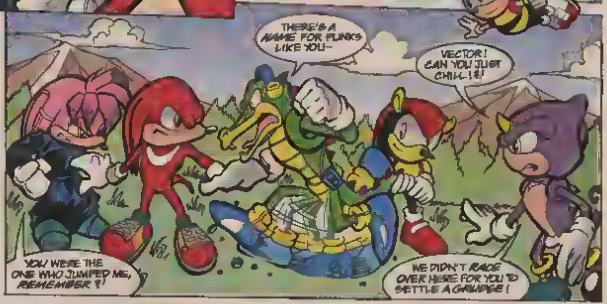

GUESS AGAIN!
YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET IT RIGHT THIS TIME!

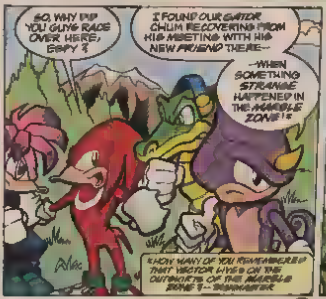
SUCKER!
OWW!
YOU MEN ARE ALL ALIKE!
ALWAYS FALLING FOR A PRETTY FACE!
ACTUALLY, I THOUGHT IT WAS A NEAT MOVE ON YOUR PART—
—USING THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE!
OOOW!
FA VOOOSHH
THANKS, ARCHY! I OWE YOU!
NOW THEN, WHATEVER YOUR NAME IS—
WHAT'S WITH THE SNEAK ATTACK—

—AND WHERE'S THE REST OF KRAGOK'S THUGS, FEMALE ?"
THE NAME IS JULIE-SU, AND I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE!
YOU EXPECT US TO BELIEVE THAT ?
"KRAGOK WAS SO PARANOID ABOUT YOU LEARNING WHAT THE WHOLE DEAL WAS, THAT HE ACTIVATED THE SELF-DESTRUCT SEQUENCE!"
" I WAS ALL SET TO LEAVE, WHEN AT THE LAST MOMENT, I SAW YOU RUNNING PAST "
" I TRIED TO FOLLOW, BUT THINGS GOT CRAZY, AND IT WAS ALL I COULD DO JUST TO GET OUT ALIVE. "
THE FUNNY THING IS—
I WANTED TO REJOIN THE LEGION—
—BUT I JUST CAN'T! IT'S BEEN LIKE SOMEONE FORCING THEIR WILL OVER MINE!
I HAD TO FIND YOU!
I JUST DON'T KNOW WHY !
UH-OH!

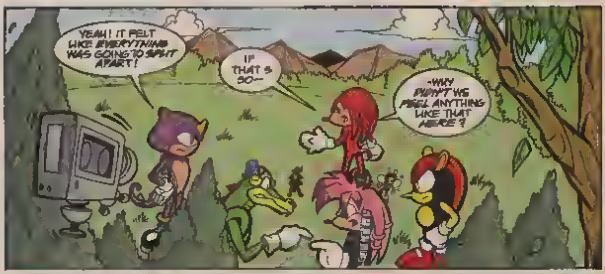

THERE SHE IS!
YEAH? WELL, I'VE HEARD A LOT OF— EH?
THERE'S THE WITCH!


LET'S TRY THAT AGAIN, GIRLFRIEND, AN' SEE HOW FAR YOU CAN KICK IT THIS TIME!!
I SEE YOU MAKE FRIENDS EASY!

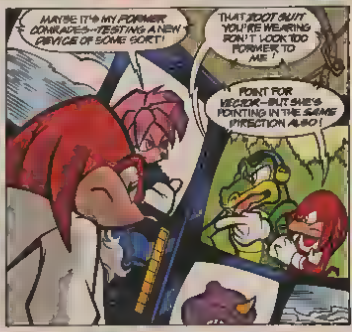

THERE'S A NAME FOR PUNKS LIKE YOU—
VECTOR! CAN YOU JUST CHILL!?!
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO JUMPED ME, REMEMBER?!
WE DIDN'T RACE OVER HERE FOR YOU TO SETTLE A GRUDGE!

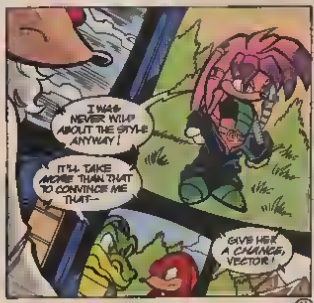

SO, WHY DID YOU GUYS RACE OVER HERE, ESPY?
I FOUND OUR GATOR CHUM RECOVERING FROM HIS MEETING WITH HIS NEW FRIEND THERE—
—WHEN SOMETHING STRANGE HAPPENED IN THE MARBLE ZONE!!
"HOW MANY OF YOU REMEMBER IF THAT VECTOR LIVES ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE MARBLE ZONE?"—TRANSMITTER

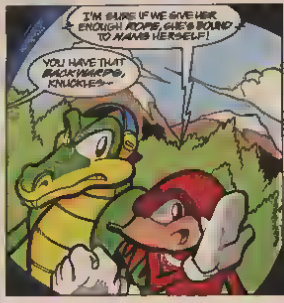
WE EXPERIENCED SOME MAJOR SEISMIC ACTIVITY.
—LIKE THE GROUND WAS SHAKING, KID!
SHAKING?!!


YEAH! IT FELT LIKE EVERYTHING WAS GOING TO SPLIT APART!
IF THAT'S SO—
—WHY DIDN'T WE FEEL ANYTHING LIKE THAT HERE?

THIS IS A PRETTY BIG ISLAND, KNUCKLES—!
A WORLD UNTO ITSELF!
STILL, THERE'S NO TELLING THAT WHATEVER IT WAS DOESN'T POSE A THREAT TO US!


MAYBE IT'S MY FORMER COMRADES—TESTING A NEW DEVICE OF SOME SORT!
THAT ROOT SUIT YOU'RE WEARING ISN'T LOOK TOO FORMER TO ME!
POINT FOR VECTOR—BUT SHE'S POINTING IN THE SAME DIRECTION ALSO!


I WAS NEVER WILD ABOUT THE STYLE ANYWAY!
IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN THAT TO CONVINCE ME THAT—
GIVE HER A CHANCE, VECTOR!


I'M SURE IF WE GIVE HER ENOUGH ROPE, SHE'S BOUND TO HANG HERSELF!
YOU HAVE THAT BACKWARDS, KNUCKLES—

m&m
MOUTH GAME
MINIS
MINIS
MINIS
MINIS
m&m MOUTHFUL OF MINIS GAME
Think putting an "M&M's" MINI in this mouth is as easy as pulling one in yours? Then give it a try, chocolate breath. First, pick out an "M&M's" MINI, and place it behind the yellow dotted line. Then, lightly flick it into the mouth. If it stops inside the mouth, you get to eat 20 MINIs. You've hit the chocolate jackpot! If it stops on any part of the tongue, you get to eat the amount of MINIs specified. And if it doesn't land on anything, put it back behind the line, and let the next player go. What? It went up the nose? Yuck. Don't eat it. Put it in a pile, and save it for your kid brother. Continue until all the MINIs are eaten.
m&m
MINIS
TONS OF CHOCOLATE CANDY SEARCHING FOR A MOUTH

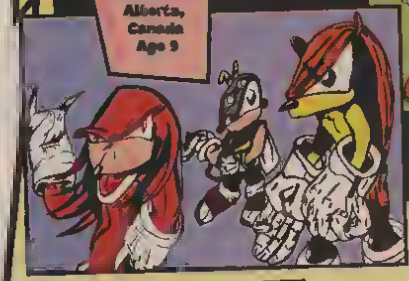
FAN ART

KNUCKLES

Jessalyn Alamy

Erich Gmik
Hartland, WI
Age 9

Chad Armstrong
Columbus, NE
Age 14



Cristal Ramanasaras
Alberta,
Canada
Age 9

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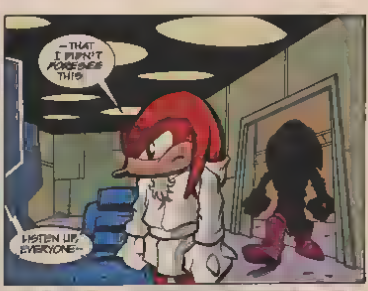
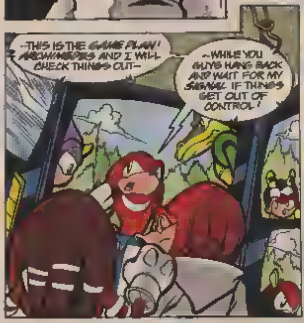
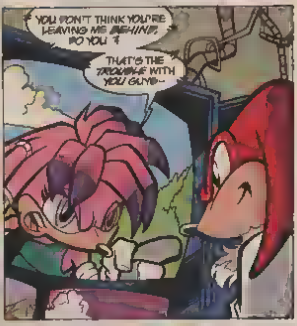
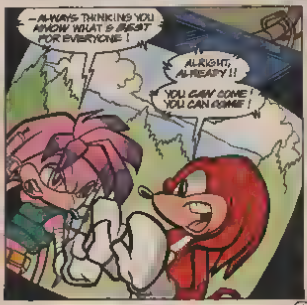
--IT'S YOUR GOOSE THAT'S BEING COOKED!
NOT TO MENTION MINE--


--THAT I DIDN'T ANSWER THIS!
LISTEN UP, EVERYONE--


--THIS IS THE GAME PLAN! ARCHAMBEAUS AND I WILL CHECK THINGS OUT--
--WHILE YOU GUYS HANG BACK AND WAIT FOR MY SIGNAL. IF THINGS GET OUT OF CONTROL!

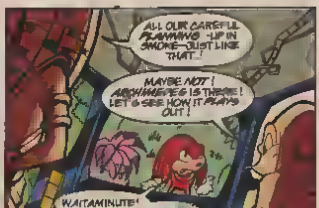

YOU DON'T THINK YOU'RE LEAVING US BEHIND, DO YOU?
THAT'S THE TROUBLE WITH YOU GUYS--

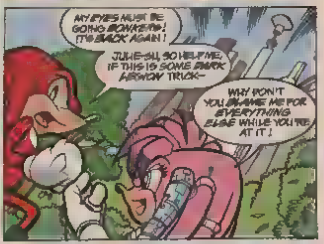

--ALWAYS THINKING YOU KNOW WHAT'S BEST FOR EVERYONE!
ALRIGHT, ALREADY!!
YOU CAN'T COME! YOU CAN'T COME!

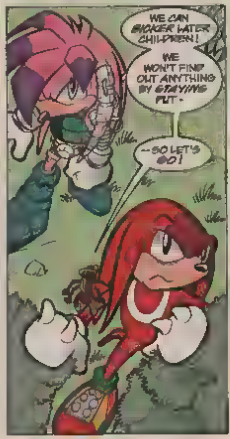
THEN AGAIN, NOTHING EVER PREPARED ME FOR SARA-HE, EITHER!
I DON'T LIKE THIS LOOKS.

THIS APPEARS TO HAVE DISASTER WRITTEN ALL OVER IT!
YOU MAY BE RIGHT, SIR--
--WHICH IS WHY WE'LL HAVE TO BE READY FOR ANYTHING--ABNORMAL!
WE'VE BEEN WALKING FOR HOURS, ARCHY--
--AND NOT A TREMOR!
NOR ANY SIGN OF--
--YOUR PEOPLE?
LOOK, BUB, YOU WANT MY HELP OR NOT?!
I DON'T RECALL ASKING FOR IT!
HEY BOY!
YE-OW!!!
HEEEEY!

WHAT TH-?
CAN THAT BE-?
I DON'T LIKE THIS! I DON'T LIKE THIS AT ALL!

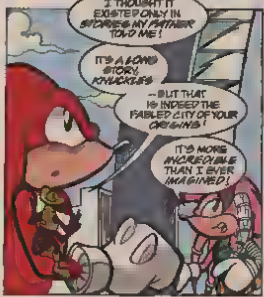

ALL OUR CAREFULL PLANNING -UP IN SMOKE- JUST LIKE THAT...
MAYBE NOT! ARCHIMEDES IS THERE! LET'S SEE HOW IT PLAYS OUT!
WAIT A MINUTE!
WHERE'D IT GO?!

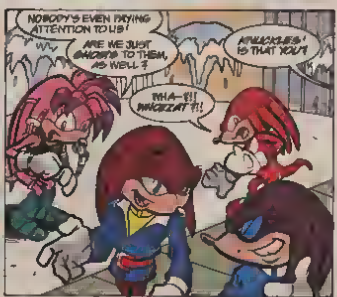

MY EYES MUST BE GOING BONKERS! IT'S BACK AGAIN!
JULIE-SU, SO HELP ME, IF THIS IS SOME DARK ARKNOW TRICK-
WHY DON'T YOU BLAME ME FOR EVERYTHING ELSE WHILE YOU'RE AT IT!

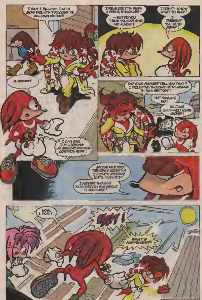

WE CAN BICKER LATER CHILDREN!
WE WON'T FIND OUT ANYTHING BY STAYING PUT-
--SO LET'S GO!

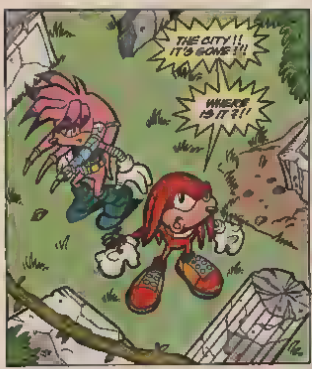
I JUST HOPE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, OLD FRIEND!

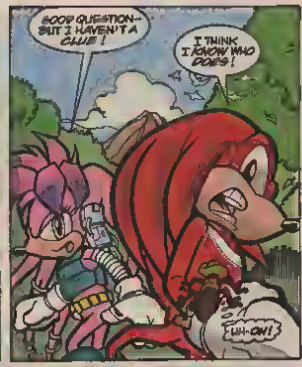
THIS CAN ONLY BE—
ECHIDNAPOLIS!
WILD!
ABSOLUTELY WILD!
BUT HOW CAN THIS BE?

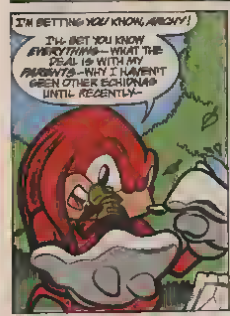


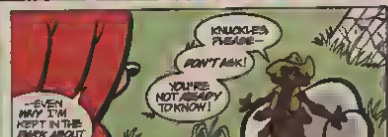



I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT A SON WOULDN'T RECOGNIZE HIS OWN MOTHER
M-MOTHER?
I REALIZE IT'S BEEN A WHILE, KNUCKLES--
--BUT DO YOU THINK YOU CAN GIVE ME A HUG?
I DON'T--KNOW WHAT TO SAY!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE DEAD!
I CAN SEE I'M LOOKING AT MAJOR DAMAGE CONTROL HERE!
DID YOUR FATHER TELL YOU THAT? I WOULD'VE THOUGHT HE'D HANDLE THINGS BETTER!
NOT REALLY, NO!
HE JUST SAID--YOU WERE GONE!
MY FATHER WAS THE ONLY ECHIDNA I'D EVER KNOWN UNTIL RECENTLY.
I NEVER THOUGHT TO QUESTION HIM ABOUT IT BEFORE!
NOW, I DON'T--
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!


THE CITY!! IT'S GONE!!!
WHERE IS IT?!!

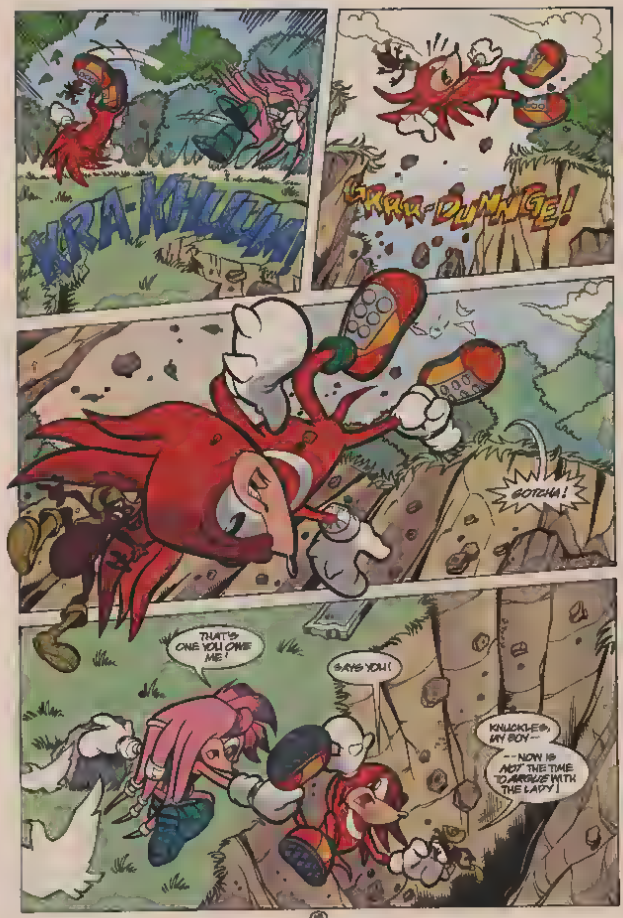

GOOD QUESTION-- BUT I HAVEN'T A CLUE!
I THINK I KNOW WHO DOES!
UH-OH!


I'M BETTING YOU KNOW, ARCHY!
I'LL BET YOU KNOW EVERYTHING--WHAT THE DEAL IS WITH MY PARENTS--WHY I HAVEN'T SEEN OTHER ECHIDNAS UNTIL RECENTLY--


KNUCKLES, PLEASE--
DON'T ASK!
YOU'RE NOT READY TO KNOW!
--EVEN WHY I'M KEPT IN THE DARK ABOUT IT ALL!

YEAH?
WHO SAID SO? YOU? MY FATHER?

KNUC--UGH!
KQA
KAH
KHOOM


KRA-KHUUM
GRRR-DUNNGE!
GOTCHA!
THAT'S ONE YOU OWE ME!
SAYS YOU!
KNUCKLES, MY BOY--
--NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO ARGUE WITH THE LADY!

AT LEAST ONE OF YOU HAS A LICK OF COMMON SENSE!
I COULD'VE SAVED MYSELF, Y KNOW!
YOU WERE JUST A SPLIT SECOND QUICKER, THAT'S ALL!
IS HE ALWAYS LIKE THIS?
HE'S ACTUALLY GOTTEN BETTER!
WHAT WAS TH--?!!
UN-REAL!
ECHIDNAOPOLIS IS RETURNING!!
KRA-KUHHUM!
SHOCK WAVE!

C'MON!
FOLLOW ME! IT'S TIME WE GOT SOME ANSWERS!
INCREDIBLE!
EVERYONE'S IN A PANIC!
WE NEED TO TALK WITH SOMEONE!
YOU, SIR!
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE? WHY IS EVERYONE SO UPSET?
WHERE YOU BEEN, FELLA? IT'S THE END OF OUR WORLD!
WE WERE WARNED OF JUDGMENT DAY--
--AND NOW IT'S HERE!
LET ME GO!
I HAVE TO JOIN MY WIFE AND CHILD!
THIS IS GETTING US NOWHERE!
LET'S GO FIND MY MOTHER! AT LEAST SHE MIGHT HAVE A CLUE!

PERHAPS—BUT WILL WE FIND HER IN TIME?

WE HAVE TO—NO TWO WAYS ABOUT IT!

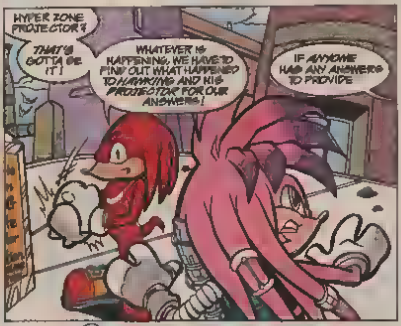
AT LEAST SHE'LL TELL ME WHAT SHE KNOWS—

—UNLIKE CERTAIN FIRE-ANTS I KNOW!

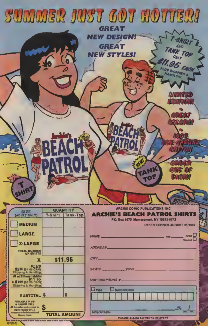
JUST ONCE, I WISH YOU'D REVEL WITH ME!

I DO—WHEN I CAN!

I THINK I'VE FOUND SOMETHING!



—YOU THREE HAD BETTER COME UP WITH SOME PRETTY QUICK!
TO BE CONTINUED...
(AS IF YOU COULDN'T GUESS!)



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Next week is Sonic-Week as SONIC #50 hits the stands with a thud and a crunch! There are so many things happening in the issue, I can't list them all. But I will say this: the showdown you've been waiting for: **Sonic Vs Robotnik!** The **special issue** sports a **gold ink, computer-enhanced cover** and hosts almost every single writer and artist who EVER worked on Sonic. **SONIC #50 on sale June '97!**

__Next Month.__ The latest chapter in the life of our favorite echidna continues as **Knuckles** encounters new enemies and the oldest echidna he's ever met, another Guardian. You'll meet **General Stryker** a cruel and despotic tyrant who rules with an iron fist (Hmmm, that almost sounds like someone we know!) Also, learn the mystery of what happened to **Echidnaopolis! KNUCKLES #5 on sale July '97!**

__LETTERS PAGE CONTEST!!!__ **"KnuckleSandwich"** and **"Post Cards from the Edge of The Floating Island"** are okay Letters Page names but they're either too long or they don't have enough zip to them. We need a new Letters Page name something as catchy as **"Sonic-Grams!"** So wrack those brain-cells and send in your **ideas** either on the back of an **empty envelope** (that's right — empty and sealed) **a postcard, or a 3x5 index card** your preference (Please do not write your idea in with your letter as it will make sorting through the mail that much harder.)

The **winner** will receive an **original pin-up of Sonic & Knuckles** (as drawn by Manny Galan and Pat Spaziante).

The winning suggestion will make its Letters Page premiere in **KNUCKLES #7!**

Of course, you win other prizes for just participating! The **first fifty people** to respond will win a **SONIC & KNUCKLES mini-poster and a SONIC 3 game button!** The **next 200 people** to respond will win a **SONIC & KNUCKLES mini-poster!**

Send to: **KNUX CONTEST**
c/o Archie Comic Publications Inc.
P.O.Box #419
Mamaroneck, NY 10543-0419

Time is of the essence so **enter now!** In case two or more enter the same winning suggestion, the **earliest postmark** will decide the winner. **Contest deadline is July 31, 1997!** The winner will be notified by mail. **Thanks and good luck!**

Send your letters to:
KNUCKLES-GRAMS #4
c/o Archie Comic Publications Inc.
P.O.Box 419
Mamaroneck, NY 10543-0419
e-mail address:
SonicWeber@aol.com

Because of limited space, the editors cannot guarantee that all correspondence will be published and reserve the right to edit messages as they see fit.

Dear Knuckles-team,

Hallelujah! Knuckles is back!! And so are The Chaotix! What are you waiting for? Get him his own series! He's different and special in a way that all the other characters in the Sonic Universe aren't. He's also cool when Sonic is not around. Now that's what I call a superhero. I ask all the readers to write in and let everybody at Archie Comics know that Knuckles deserves his own series.

Ewan Gregory
Baggerville, Ont.
Canada

Well, Fanle, it seems enough fans (such as yourself) DID write in and demand my second mini-series become an ongoing series. I thank you all for making it possible! WE DID IT!

Dear Knuckles,

I am a sixteen year old junior in high school. I am also an honor student and an artist. Knuckles, you are my favorite character of all the Sonic comics. You are bright, witty and kind of like Ichabod... that spark of yours displays your personality. Now on to a few questions. 1) Does the white ring around your neck represent your status as guardian? 2) Will Energak/Servain make a comeback? 3) Do you have any idea if Merlin Prower is Tails' dad? 4) Will there be any future issues showing you with Princess Sally?

Wendy Foster
Hampsterville, NC

Thanks for the kind words. Answer time: 1) Because the mark is as hereditary as my station as Guardian of The Floating Island, they have become one and the same. 2) Let me let you speak to the editor for that one.. *What's up, Wendy? This is J. Freddy with the answer. Yes, he will return in Issue #'s 7-9 in a story called "Dark Vengeance." Don't tell Knuckles or it will spoil his surprise!* 3) I don't know, I didn't think to ask. 4) SONIC #44 showed our "secret" past for those who haven't read the issue, King Acorn used to vacation on The Floating Island every summer since I could remember. He started bringing Sally with him when we were ages three to five (right before Robotnik took over). We would hang whenever we could. Unfortunately, one of the rules while training to be a future guardian was to avoid contact with others. During her final trip on The Floating Island, I told her I could no longer see her. We hadn't seen each other again until the KNUCKLES' CHAOTIX Special #1.

Hey Knux,

I think you're really cool. I've been your biggest fan since SONIC 3 game and your first appearance in SONIC #13. I'm really enjoying your Dark Legion storyline. Manny Galan and Andrew Pepoy's artwork is great. The story is cool too. I can't believe there are Echidnas on The Floating Island. I also like the past scenes with Steppenwolf. How is Menedler and Legion related to you? As long as you're lookin' I'll keep readin'!

Carlton "The Knuckster" ...
Montgomery AL

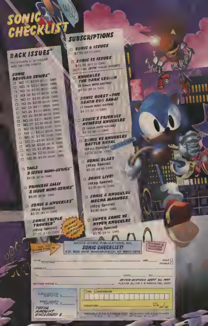
Menedler is ... generations ... in the ... so I guess that kind of ... What a scary thought!

Dear Knuckles,

My Knucklesholic friend, Max Seeman, showed me your comics and I got hooked ever since I never miss an issue. I love the SONIC & KNUCKLES game, and I always make it to the end with you (never with Sonic). Questions: 1) How does Espio go invisible like in issue #1? 2) Do you and Tails get along? 3) Is being a Guardian as hard as it looks? 4) Do you have a girlfriend? Best wishes from a huge RED fan!

Emily Murray
Evergreen, ...

Espio is a chameleon who can blend in with any background color so it looks like he turns invisible. 2) Tails is okay. He just talks too much. 3) Harder. 4) Not yet.



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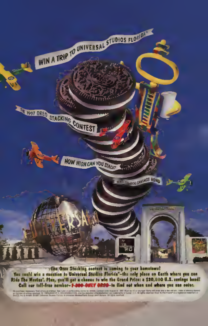
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